

submarine, as well as the USS *Richard B. Russell*, whose crew was awarded three consecutive Battle Efficiency "E" awards, three Navy Unit Commendations, and two Fleet Commander Silver Anchors for excellence in enlisted retention.

As his career progressed, so too did the assignments that the admiral was given. Admiral Giambastiani led the Submarine Development Squadron Twelve, an attack submarine squadron that serves as the Navy's Warfare Center of Excellence for submarine doctrine and attacks. He was also the first director of strategy and concepts at the Naval Doctrine Command and the commander of the Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force. He served as the commander of the Submarines Allied Command Atlantic; the Anti-Submarine and Reconnaissance Forces Atlantic in Norfolk, VA; and as NATO's first supreme allied commander for transformation. In each of these assignments, Admiral Giambastiani performed his duties with distinction.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Admiral Giambastiani was working in the Pentagon as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense. On that day and those that followed, Admiral Giambastiani worked tirelessly to respond to the aftermath of that attack.

Admiral Giambastiani served as commander of Joint Forces Command from October of 2002 to August of 2005. During this period, Joint Forces Command deployed headquarters personnel in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, established assessment teams for global contingency operations to ensure the application of joint doctrine and practices, and provided oversight of numerous training exercises for deploying task force headquarters staffs to Iraq.

During this time, I worked closely with Admiral Giambastiani as a member of Joint Forces Command's Transformation Advisory Group, a body that the admiral formed to provide U.S. Joint Forces Command with independent advice and recommendations on strategic, scientific, technical, intelligence and policy-related issues. I have great personal and intellectual respect for Admiral Giambastiani and admire his openness to new ideas, his commitment to joint transformation, and his dedication to supporting our servicemembers.

In 2005, Admiral Giambastiani was nominated to serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and I had the honor of introducing Admiral Giambastiani at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee. During his tenure as Vice Chairman, Admiral Giambastiani has worked diligently to improve and transform our Nation's defense capabilities. He has served as the chairman of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council, where he worked to make it more responsive to the requests of our military commanders and to syn-

chronize the delivery of resources needed by our servicemembers.

On behalf of my constituents in New York and of all Americans, I want to express my gratitude to Admiral Giambastiani for his many years of public service. I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me today in recognizing and honoring Admiral Giambastiani for the service and commitment to the country that he represents.●

TRIBUTE TO WALTER JOHNSON

● Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a great American who spent a little time in my home State of Idaho.

Today marks the 100th anniversary of Hall of Fame pitcher Walter Johnson's Major League debut for the Washington Senators. On this day—August 2—in 1907, Walter "Big Train" Johnson took the field as the starting pitcher for the first time in what would be a 21-year career.

Interestingly enough, I actually have quite a bit in common with Walter Johnson. We both grew up in small towns; we share a connection to Washington County, ID. Johnson played semiprofessional ball in Weiser; I am a Republican, as was Johnson; and both of us are, or were, Senators—Johnson played for the Washington Senators.

Let me explain a little bit about our shared connection to Washington County. Walter Johnson was discovered while playing semiprofessional baseball in the Idaho State League. He played for the team in Weiser, ID; I could almost toss a baseball to Weiser from my hometown of Midvale. Johnson spent 2 years playing in Weiser from 1905 to 1907.

The Washington Senators tried to sign Johnson in 1906, but having grown up in small towns in Kansas and California, Johnson preferred the small-town life and was unsure about moving to Washington, DC.

The following year, the Senators sent their catcher, Cliff Blankenship, to scout Johnson and try to sign him. Blankenship was told to try to get a hit off of Johnson.

Blankenship tried but was unsuccessful. He sent a telegram to his manager back in Washington, saying, "You can't hit what you can't see. I've signed him and he is on his way."

For most of his career, Walter Johnson's pitches were considered to be practically un-hittable. Because the radar gun had not yet been invented, nobody knows for sure just how hard he could throw a baseball. But most experts estimate that he could top 100 miles per hour with ease.

His stature was equally intimidating. Johnson stood 6-foot-1 and weighed in at 200 pounds, earning him the nickname "The Big Train."

Hall of Famer Ty Cobb was arguably the best hitter ever to play the game. Cobb faced Walter Johnson in Johnson's debut game on August 2, 1907. Al-

though Johnson and the Senators lost, 3 to 2, Cobb gave Johnson high praise, saying, "The first time I faced him, I watched him take that easy windup, and then something went past me that made me flinch. I hardly saw the pitch, but I heard it. The thing just hissed with danger. Every one of us knew we'd met the most powerful arm ever turned loose in a ballpark."

Despite playing for teams that were routinely awful, Johnson won 417 games in his career, second only to Cy Young, who won 511.

Johnson won 32 games in one season; compare that to today, where winning 20 games is considered a major accomplishment.

The Big Train also holds a record that will likely never be broken: In 1916, he pitched 369.2 innings without allowing a single home run.

Let me put this in perspective. Simply pitching that many innings in a season today would be a remarkable feat. Most pitchers never come close to 300 innings per season. It is truly phenomenal that Johnson was physically able to pitch that many innings and totally unthinkable that he could do it without allowing a single homerun. My colleague, the Senator from Kentucky, who is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame himself, could tell you what an extraordinary accomplishment this is.

Many credit Johnson with carrying the Washington Senators to their first and only World Series title in 1924. They defeated the New York Giants, four games to three.

It was truly a different era in America. Senators fans were so ecstatic that Johnson had carried them to the World Series that before the first game, they presented him with a Lincoln Town Car as an expression of their gratitude. At the time, it was the most expensive car made in America and cost \$8,000. That wouldn't happen today.

In time, Johnson grew to love Washington, DC and even got involved in local politics after he retired from baseball, winning a seat as a county commissioner in Montgomery County, MD.

He frequently held rallies and political events at his home, and ran—unsuccessfully—for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Although Walter Johnson only spent a short time in Idaho—just over two seasons—we claim him as one of our own. We feel proud to have played an important role in launching the career of "The Big Train," and I am honored today to mark the 100th anniversary of his Major League debut.●

HATCH CHILE FESTIVAL

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today, I would like to mark the annual chile festival in Hatch, NM.

For the last 36 years on Labor Day weekend thousands of New Mexicans and people from around the country converge on Hatch for fun and good food. The Hatch chile festival is the

premiere celebration of this fiery food that is near and dear to the hearts of New Mexicans. Chile, both red and green, is one of the distinctive flavors that makes New Mexico such a wonderful place to live and visit. A good deal of that chile originates in Hatch and it has rightly earned the title "chile capital of the world."

I hope this year's chile festival will be a success. I am sure all involved will walk away satisfied and with full stomachs.●

CHAPTER 641 OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President. I would like to pay tribute to the members of Chapter 641 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA.

Chapter 641 gathers on the first Saturday of every month from April to November to wash the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC. The dedication of these veterans helps to ensure the memorial dedicated to all the brave service men and women who gave their lives in the Vietnam war remains worthy of their sacrifice.

In June of this year the Daughters of the American Revolution presented this group with a national service award. I would like to add my praise to Chapter 641 VVA. Thanks in part to their hard work and dedication, we as a nation will never forget those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEORGIA O'KEEFE MUSEUM

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I recognize the Georgia O'Keefe Museum in Santa Fe, NM, on its 10th anniversary. Georgia O'Keefe was, and remains, a New Mexico institution. The work she did while living in my State is held in the highest regard by artists and spectators alike.

Georgia O'Keefe settled in New Mexico in 1945 after being a frequent visitor of the State seeking artistic inspiration. She is famous for her vibrant portrayals of flowers and unique New Mexico landscapes. Ms. O'Keefe has inspired a number of aspiring artists, and she is sure to inspire many more for many years. Her work is timeless. New Mexico is proud to be home to most of her prized work.

The Georgia O'Keefe Museum is the first museum dedicated to the work of a woman artist of international stature. It showcases well over 1,000 pieces of Ms. O'Keefe's work. The museum has opened its doors to over one million visitors just in its first few years of operation; countless others will enjoy it in the future. It also boasts a vast education and outreach program that includes internships, teacher workshops, seminars and even afterschool arts programs. The museum is dedicated to the study and interpretation of her work, as well as American modernism.

The museum will commemorate the anniversary with a 10th anniversary

celebration. The celebration will include a dinner dance, entertainment, and obviously art. The event will not only commemorate Georgia O'Keefe but also honor the museum's founders, Anne and John Marion. They have worked tirelessly to see that the artwork of Ms. O'Keefe is available for all to enjoy. Through their vision, the work of Georgia O'Keefe will be available for study and viewing for many years to come.

I commend these two individuals for envisioning a place for Georgia O'Keefe's work to be displayed, and maintaining that vision for the last 10 years. I believe Ms. O'Keefe would be proud of the work they have done and honored to be held in such high regard with respect to her art.●

TRIBUTE TO LEAGUE TO SAVE LAKE TAHOE

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I recognize the 50 years of great work by the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe has a long history of fighting to protect what I consider to be the crown jewel of the Sierra. The league was founded in 1957 as the Tahoe Improvement and Conservation Association to fight runaway development in one of our Nation's most beautiful regions. Since then, its membership has grown to 4,500 people, but its mission remains the same: to protect Lake Tahoe's famously clear waters and the surrounding area's natural beauty.

Protecting Lake Tahoe is an issue very dear to my heart. My love for Tahoe goes back to my childhood, when I attended camp and rode horses through its beautiful forests. Today however, the lake's health is threatened. Water clarity has declined from 102 feet in 1968 to 68 feet today, and the forests are more susceptible to catastrophic wildfires.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe was influential in developing the Environmental Improvement Program that identified actions that needed to be taken to help restore Lake Tahoe and instrumental in organizing the 1997 Presidential Forum. The league has continued to display an unwavering commitment to protecting the irreplaceable natural resources the Lake Tahoe Basin is blessed with.

I would like to congratulate the League to Save Lake Tahoe on a half century of outstanding environmental stewardship and wish them the best of luck in their continuing mission to Keep Tahoe Blue.●

BEST BUDDIES

● Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Best Buddies Chapter from Walter Johnson High School in Montgomery County, MD, for being named "Chapter of the Year" by Best Buddies International. Best Buddies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedi-

cated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment. Founded by Anthony K. Shriver in 1989, Best Buddies focuses on the importance of social integration for a group that is often overlooked by society. They achieve their mission by creating "buddy pairs" in student-run chapters at middle schools, high schools, and colleges around the world.

Every year, Best Buddies holds its international leadership conference at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, where over 1,300 high school and college students are trained on how to run an effective Best Buddies chapter—skills that will serve them well throughout their academic and professional lives. During the conference the organization acknowledges certain chapters that have achieved a particular level of excellence throughout the past year. The Chapter of the Year is selected by the board of directors and is based on the quality of the one-to-one friendships, chapter leadership, and activities. For 2007, 75 chapters applied, and Walter Johnson High School was awarded this impressive distinction.

This chapter exemplified the true meaning of team work. As a team they worked together and planned incredibly successful events, fundraisers, and group outings. Their great sense of spirit and enthusiasm showed in every activity they undertook and in the deeply rewarding friendships they created. Through the tireless outreach of the chapter members, the general student population at Walter Johnson learned first hand that the similarities between children with and without intellectual disabilities far outweigh the differences.

I hope that you will join me in recognizing the importance of what these high school students are doing through their participation in the Best Buddies program and the excellence with which they do it.●

TRIBUTE TO DON HIGHT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to South Dakota rancher Don Hight for being recognized at the Third Annual National Day of the American Cowboy celebration in my home town of Murdo, SD.

Don was born in Mellette County, SD, in 1920. He served as an Army paratrooper in World War II. After his return from the war, Don married Adeline Fott and together they started ranching in Jones County, SD, where they raised their two children Dan and Cheryl.

In January of 1962, the farmer from small-town South Dakota made national news when he began a 70-mile cattle drive, trailing 1800 head of cattle from his Jones County ranch along the White River to Winner, SD. On the third day into the trip, a blizzard hit with temperatures below zero and